

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

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Tallahassee, Friday, July 14, 1905.

The State Reform School at Marianna has lost its Superintendent, Walter Rawls, who resigned last week.

The Jacksonville Metropolis says that a lawyer of that city has discovered a law of Florida authorizing the granting of conditional pardons. Please give the date.

Jeff L. Davis, who recently sold his Perry newspaper, has purchased the Live Oak Crescent. The True Democrat extends its congratulations to Jeff and to the readers of the Crescent.

The Quincy Times announces the approaching marriage of Hon. James E. Broome, of that city, but well-known throughout the State. The lady's name is Mrs. Laura T. Haines, of Quincy.

President Roosevelt was singularly fortunate in having for so long a period the valuable services of Secretary Hay, and has been equally fortunate in securing the consent of Hon. Elihu Root, of New York, to accept the appointment as Mr. Hay's successor.

Ex-Senator W. Call has turned Republican and will organize a Roosevelt club in Jacksonville. He lost his place partly through incompetency and partly through too intimate relations with Republican senators and congressmen, greatly to the injury of Florida's interests at Washington.

The conviction of U. S. Senator John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, charged with practicing before the government departments for compensation while senator, occurred at Portland, July 4th. Now let the beef trust robbers get a dose of the same medicine at Chicago, and the country will feel safer.

Mr. Samuel W. Teague, of Lady Lake and Ocala, died at his brother's home in that city on the 2nd inst. He was in the employ of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund for some years, and was well-known throughout the State as an experienced real estate man. He was unmarried and about 45 years of age.

L. M. Ware, a prominent citizen of St. Andrews, and who was the only Republican member of the Legislature of 1903, died at that place July 4th. As the Pensacola Journal says: "His death will be a loss to St. Andrews, where he had lived for so many years, and a source of regret to those who knew him in every part of the State."

Philadelphia political rottenness has recently been outdone by evidences of social degeneration which are too disgusting to be repeated. A recent police raid rounded up nearly 2,000 arrested culprits, from the slums, many of whom were "women of birth and breeding," two of whom attempted to suicide rather than face exposure in the courts.

The Tampa Tribune of recent issue reports that Martin Dolan, a guard at the State Hospital, being sent to Tampa for a patient, got drunk and was locked up and fined. We do not believe that the hospital authorities knew the true character of Dolan when they sent him on his mission, and we have no doubt he was a heritage from the late Jennings administration.

The Jasper Banner of Liberty protests against the useless expenditure of \$30,000 for a State census, and pertinently remarks that the season of the year is the worst that could have been chosen for the work, when "hundreds and thousands of the people are out of the State." True, but then what does that amount to in comparison with the opportunity to expend an appropriation?

Only a few days ago the news came of the marriage of Editor W. W. Jones of the Chipley Banner to an Appalachian belle, and now we learn of the going off of two other well-known editors in one bunch. Mr. James C. Thompson, of the Dunnellon Advocate, will be married to Miss Ruth Hale, of the Williston Advocate, at Williston, on the 1st day of August. Long life and happiness to all of them!

The Lake City Citizen-Reporter is authority for the statement that Governor Broward, N. P. Bryan, A. L. Brown and Nat Adams voted for Lake City as the site for the University. Not very many outside of that place will feel interested in the fact. The feeling is almost universal that the joint board did the best thing possible, and that each member acted and voted strictly in accordance with his conscientious convictions.

The Starke Telegraph testifies to the excellent effect of local option in Bradford county, and adds: One business man who was intensely opposed to closing the saloons already wants another election, so we can make a good job of it. His business has been so satisfactory that he has already put behind him the notion that it injures a town to go "dry." And he was one of the fellows who thought he would certainly have to move away if the saloons were closed.

The Gainesville Sun makes the following pledge on behalf of the people of that city: "That the welfare of the University entrusted to our keeping shall ever be our first concern; that we will guard most zealously the morals of their sons; that their local environment shall be as perfect as weak man can make it; that the social atmosphere they move in shall be clean and wholesome, and that no local condition shall ever be tolerated that would bring discredit upon the University, or put obstacles in the way of its success."

The announcement that Hon. Robt. W. Davis will eschew politics and remove to Tampa, to practice law, is thus referred to by the Palatka Times-Herald: The news of the approaching removal of Mr. Davis will be learned with keen regret throughout Putnam county. Here he has resided for the past twenty years, and here it is where he is best known and most beloved. Mr. Davis is one of the most learned lawyers of the State, and the local bar will soon be bereft of its most distinguished member. It is with a feeling of sorrow that the Judge leaves this section, but he believes it expedient to go to fields more promising to the pursuit of his chosen profession.

Among the definitions of a vagrant in the new law are "persons who neglect their calling or employment and mispend what they earn, and do not provide for themselves or the support of their families;" "those who neglect all lawful business and habitually mispend their time," etc.; "persons able to work but habitually idle," etc. and "all able-bodied male persons over eighteen years of age who are without means of support and whose parents or guardians are unable to support them," etc. Tallahassee can show up a few of each of the above described classes, and they would do well to hunt some kind of a job right away if they don't want to run the risk of arrest and punishment as vagrants.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPLY.

When the two houses of the Legislature, each acting for itself but with a united purpose, declined to receive the lengthy protest presented by the Board of State Institutions to the report of the joint committee appointed to investigate the State Hospital for the Insane at Chattahoochee, many supposed that the matter would be dropped, so far as the joint committee was concerned, the action of the two houses being in effect a complete and emphatic vindication of the committee's action. By some, however, it was known that the committee did not intend to let the board's protest, which had been accorded wide publicity, go to the public without any response, and in the Jacksonville Times-Union of July 7 appears the committee's reply to the board, occupying nearly an entire page of that journal, and covering every point attempted to be made by the protest of the board.

Lack of space forbids any attempt to comment at length or in detail upon the various features of the committee's reply, but we shall keep it at hand, and refer to it from time to time, as occasion may arise. Just now, all we have to say of it is that it is a calm, precise and masterly presentation of the joint committee's position, and a most convincing refutation of the accusations, asseverations and conclusions of the board, sustained not only by the evidence taken by the joint committee but by much of that taken by the House committee appointed—as the joint committee charges—for the express purpose of discrediting the report of the joint committee and breaking the force of the damaging contents thereof.

We also desire to direct public attention to a fact stated by the joint com-

mittee, which has heretofore escaped our notice, and which will be regarded as particularly significant, viz: That the famous "protest of twenty Florida women," purporting to come from the female nurses at the hospital, was dated May 12th, five days before the report of the joint committee was submitted to the two houses of the Legislature, but was not presented until five days after said report was filed. Also, the joint committee notes the fact that "very damaging typewritten evidence taken by the [House] committee has been left out of the printed evidence submitted."

This last is an exceedingly serious charge to be made against the members of the House committee, and the persons through whose hands passed the copy of the evidence intended for the use of the printer, and we shall endeavor to ascertain the precise facts and give them to the public at the earliest possible day.

FREE FAIR ADVERTISING.

The Florida newspapers are being courteously invited to contribute to the success of the Tampa fair by gratuitous publication of considerable quantities of advertising matter sent out by a salaried employee of the management. Some of them have shied at the proposition, but probably most of them have swallowed it, bait, hook and all.

We can scarcely blame the fair managers for adopting a something-for-nothing scheme like this, for they had the example of the process invented and practiced by the managers of the great expositions which have been held during the past few years. Generally speaking, the average county newspaper man is an easy mark when it comes to donating his space for purposes alleged to be patriotic; but there is always a limit to such contributions, or there should be, if the newspaper man has the nerve to define it.

The Punta Gorda Herald made the initial protest, demanding that the Tampa fair managers should pay for their advertising, just as other money-making enterprises do, and especially as this particular enterprise had been liberally subsidized by the Legislature from the money of the people. The Bartow Record, Ocala Star, Jasper News and others joined in the protest, and the Tampa Tribune promptly acknowledged that their position as stated was sound logic and good business judgment." The True Democrat gladly joins the brethren named, and all others who prefer "sound logic and good business judgment" to loose, good-natured compliance with the requests of the fair management for free publicity, and offers its space for advertising the fair at its most liberal rates.

THE STATE SHOULD PAY.

Referring to various propositions offering pecuniary inducements for the location of State institutions at particular places the esteemed Times-Union aptly says:

We think all this wrong. We object to the State placing itself under any obligation of any kind to any city or town within its limits. If the Board of Control sees fit to locate the University of Florida at some other point than that of its present location, the State of Florida should buy the ground and pay for it, erect the buildings and pay for them. And the State of Florida should not accept from Tallahassee a site for the Governor's mansion. The State should be impartial between all localities, and to do this it should not place itself under any obligations to any locality. So if, under the acts of the Legislature, gifts from Florida cities or towns must be accepted, we hope the next Legislature, as soon as it meets, will pass a bill to refund any money contributed in this way.

This is not only good, sound logic, but is likewise straight, plain honesty in dealing as between the government and the people—or, rather between the people of the State, represented by the government, and the individuals or communities affected by the several location events.

The State is not bankrupt, or so poor as to be under the necessity of exacting local aid in the establishment or maintenance of its necessary public institutions. It would be no more improper for the government, represented by the State officials acting as such, to exact a "rake-off" from tradesmen invited to furnish necessary supplies, than for the Legislature to require that citizens of a specified community should pay a bonus for the establishment of a necessary public institution in their midst. The same would apply to any branch of the State government, like the educational boards.

Besides, the offering is in effect a species of bribery, which, in transactions less public is sometimes called and more frequently regarded by the un-

handsome appellation of "graft". That the "graft" is to the advantage of the State or the State institution instead of a dishonest official or individual citizen, does not matter. The principle is the same.

The predicament in which the people of Tallahassee find themselves is peculiarly exasperating. The Legislature said to them, in effect: "We intend building a mansion for our governors to live in, but because this must be done in your city, and will make a handsome addition to its general appearance and attractions, we propose to make you pay a considerable portion of the expense." There was not even the incentive of competition with other localities—it was a clean, clear, deliberate "hold-up."

And the Tampa Times makes the following trite observations on the subject;

Just exactly upon what rational or business ground the people of Tallahassee were required to furnish the site to the State free for one of its buildings does not appear, and there is some evident excuse for the inaction of the people on this occasion. Just how they would get their money back is no more visible than the rightfulness of the demand by the Legislature that they put it up in the first place. The appropriation is large enough to permit the diversion of the necessary money for the site without rendering the executive utterly homeless. A \$20,000 mansion would probably be sufficient to keep him out of the weather.

SUNDAY BASEBALL LAW.

Jacksonville baseball devotees undertook to test the validity of the Sunday amusement law enacted at the late session of the Legislature, and President W. C. West, of the local baseball association, offered himself on the altar of patriotism, was arrested, and submitted to the judge of the county criminal court, in a motion to quash the information, the proposition that the law was invalid. The judge overruled the motion, holding that the law was all right. Then Mr. West sued out a writ of habeas corpus returnable before Circuit Judge Call, who has just decided against him, holding that the law is constitutional.

Mr. West will now appeal to the supreme court, and that tribunal's decision will doubtless be regarded as final.

TO AID CARRABELLE.

Georgia Senators and Representatives in the Congress have been formally requested by the Legislature of that State to lend aid in procuring legislation appropriating money for the improvement of Carrabelle harbor. The resolution, introduced by Representatives Donaldson and Brinson, of Decatur county, reads as follows:

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of Florida, at its last session, passed a resolution memorializing Congress to appropriate money for the purpose of deepening the channel at Carrabelle harbor, Florida; and,

Whereas, The said State of Florida is a Southern State, and a sister State of Georgia, and said harbor is only a short distance from the border line of said State of Georgia; and,

Whereas, Should said harbor be deepened it would be of incalculable benefit not only to the State of Florida, but also to the State of Georgia, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That our Senators and Representatives to Congress are hereby requested to introduce in the next United States Congress some suitable measure towards making a sufficient appropriation of money for Carrabelle harbor, to deepen the channel of said harbor so as to allow seagoing vessels and other water crafts to take on and discharge their cargoes at the wharves of the said town of Carrabelle, Fla., the appropriation heretofore made by Congress being wholly inadequate for said purpose, which is materially to the detriment of the great business interests of the State of Florida, and to the State of Georgia, and especially to the southern counties of the State of Georgia, lying contiguous to that section.

State Printing Contracts.

From the Jacksonville Metropolis.

The time is fast approaching when the Board of State Institutions will be required to advertise for bids for the execution of the State printing for the two years from October 1, 1905, to October 1, 1907.

It is to be hoped that the work will be done by some party or parties who know how to do it, and that they will be made to do it right, and not have any such shabby work as has disgraced the State the past two years. A proper price should be paid, and the contractor be made to give bond for faithful performance of his contract. It should also be specified as to the quality of material and workmanship as well as time for completing certain printing.

There is no good reason why the State of Florida should not have as good printing as it procured by private individuals, or has been done for other States. Florida has had it, and should have it all the time.

Take the department reports turned

out during the past two years and compare the printing with that done by C. E. Dyke, Mr. Oliver, C. H. Walton, J. G. Collins and others years ago. The State was much less able to pay for printing ten, twenty and thirty years ago than it is now, but when poor and deeply in debt it got good and much better work than now. No one was ashamed of the quality either.

The Board of State Institutions should see to it that all printing is of the best, and that the best of material is used. If the board is not versed in the requisities for good printing, it should call in some practical manager of such work or a printer of extensive experience to aid the board in formulating specifications. There are plenty of such men not interested in the bidders to be had.

HOW THEY GRAFTED.

The recent indictments of the heads and agents of packing concerns in Chicago, members of the beef trust, has directed public attention anew to the infamous methods of these monumental grafters. The Birmingham Age-Herald of a recent date contained the following details of their performances:

Although the packers and their chief agents fled to Canada or to Europe, yet the detectives succeeded in securing evidence enough to base indictments upon, and the seventeen indicted men are now confronted by a government determined to convict them. The indictments are of a sweeping nature, covering every feature of the meat combine. They show that the producer is a victim of the meat trust as well as the consumer. The trust was organized to fleece both. The industry is monopolized at both ends up to the greed of the allied companies.

The producer must sell, else his cattle will eat their heads off, and the consumer must buy, else he will go hungry. The consumer cannot hope to secure better prices, simply because the trust names the prices regardless of conditions, and the consumer cannot expect relief because the same grasping combine will not let prices fall. Competition at both ends has been eliminated, and the country is in the grasp of a heartless combine—a combine that Commissioner Garfield went out of his way to exonerate. The verdict of the federal grand jury is directed against the officers of the beef trust, but Mr. Garfield does not show up well in the light of the indictments.

The government is entitled to great credit for the manner in which it has thus far executed its great task. The use of detectives who could outwit the detectives of the trust laid the foundation for the indictments. The first step has been taken, and the hope is that the administration will not rest until the trust is smashed. If the work is done thoroughly and efficiently the country will be rid of the most baneful trust of all.

PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY.

There need be no doubt in any mind of the fact that the people of Tallahassee are entirely satisfied with the results of the action of the joint educational boards in locating the Florida Female College at Tallahassee, with Prof. A. A. Murphree at its head, to be assisted by a faculty of his own choosing.

Had there been insurmountable objections to the location of the University at either of the two principal contestants for the honor Tallahassee stood ready, armed with unanswerable arguments in support of its superior advantages, to undertake the task of aiding to build up a University which should be a credit to the State and the boards. The University having been located temporarily at Lake City and permanently at Gainesville, Tallahassee stood ready to accept the responsibility for the up-building of the Florida Female College.

Singularly enough, the attitude of the capital city and its representatives with reference to the college location matter has been almost precisely identical with the procedure suggested by The True Democrat. In its issues of June 9 and 16 appeared articles strongly advocating the location of the University at Tallahassee. In the issue of June 23 we urged the citizens to assemble in mass meeting and take the proper and necessary steps to present our claims to the boards, which meeting was held July 3rd. On the 30th of June we declared that Tallahassee would be satisfied with whatever disposition of the matter should be made by the boards, being certain of having either the University or the Female College, "preferably the former;" and this was precisely the course of reasoning adopted by Tallahassee's representatives before the boards.

Editor Collins of the Tallahassee True Democrat wishes every printer in the State to know that the Board of State Institutions is now advertising for bids on the State printing, and he wishes all who are in a position to do the work, to come up to Tallahassee in August loaded with bids. We pass. — Quincy Times.

All right. Come to Tallahassee anyway on the day the bids are to be opened, and see that the thing is done right.